

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) The Ministry of External Affairs has reported that cases of issuing fake passports have not come to its notice. However, 1903 cases of forgery in passports were detected by the Indian Immigration Officers during the year 1997. The persons involved in these cases were handed over to the local police for action. 'Police' being a State subject as per the Constitution of India, registration, investigation, and detection of crime as well as the prevention of crime are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments.

[English]

Atrocities against Scheduled Castes

355. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has completed its investigations as directed by the Madras High Court into the Kodyankulam police atrocities against scheduled castes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the culprits ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) The investigation by the CBI is not yet over.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Free Sale Quota of Sugar

356. SHRI P. SANKARAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have increased the free sale quota of sugar and also increased the Import Duty on sugar;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the cost of sugar in the open market is likely to increase especially during the coming festival seasons; and

(d) if so, the measures taken to minimise the escalating cost of sugar in the open market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) The month-wise freesale quota of sugar released from April to December during the financial years 1997-98 and 1998-99 is given below:-

(In lakh tonnes)

Month	1997-98	1998-99
April	7.10	7.50
May	8.00	7.75
June	8.00	7.75
July	7.50	7.79
August	7.50	7.50
September	7.50	9.00
October	9.20	8.42
November	8.20	7.50
December	7.32	7.50
Total	70.32	70.71

The above figures reveal that there has been increase in freesale quota during the year 1998-99 as compared to the previous year. The increase in quota has been necessitated due to increase in requirement on account of rise in population/demand.

The Central Government w.e.f. 28th April, 1998 have imposed a basic custom duty of 5% and countervailing duty of Rs. 850/- per M.T. on imported sugar.

(c) and (d) The retail prices of S-30 grade of sugar in the 4 principal markets, namely, Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai were in the range of Rs. 15-17 per kg. in the current year 1998-99 (upto November, 1998) as well as in the last year, 1997-98. Thus, the prices have remained steady.

Government Hospitals and Dispensaries for Middle Class

357. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Government hospitals and dispensaries to provide health services in a planned manner to the poor and middle class people in Delhi, Mumbai and other metropolitan cities keeping in view of the rising population in these cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to deal with the daring situation of health services to the poor